

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Howard School

other names/site number Perry Township School No. 1

011-205-45031

2. Location

street & number 4555 East County Road 750 South

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Brownsburg

☒ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Boone

code 011 zip code 46112

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be consider significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet

- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.

- ☐ other, (explain:)

Howard School
Name of Property

Boone County, IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-state
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Indiana's Public Common and High Schools

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

VACANT

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof WOOD: shingle

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more sheets.)

Howard School
Name of Property

Boone County, IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significant within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination if individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

c.1881-1916

Significant Dates

c.1881

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wing, George

McPharren, Jap

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Boone County Historical Society

Howard School
Name of Property

Boone County, IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.1249 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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5	5	2	7	8	0
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4	4	2	0	0	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William A. Coan, President

organization Howard School Restoration Group date April 7, 2009

street & number 7380 South County Road 200 East telephone 765-482-1352

city or town Lebanon state IN zip code 46052

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Howard School Restoration Group, c/o William Coan

street & number 7380 South CR 200 East telephone 765-482-1352

city or town Lebanon state IN zip code 46052

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Howard School, Boone County, IN

Section 7 - Description

Howard School, officially Perry Township School Number One, is a vernacular one room, brick, rectangular schoolhouse, located just east of the southeast junction of Boone County Roads 750 South and 450 East. On some maps, CR 750 South is labeled as 101st Street, a remnant of a numbering system which figured distance north from downtown Indianapolis. It is located at the eastern edge of the Town of Fayette. Howard School served the community of White Lick Settlement, later named Fayette. Then, as today, Fayette is the most populated area of Perry Township, which has been subjected to ever-increasing suburbanization for over ten years.

The surrounding terrain was glaciated during the Ice Ages and is part of the Tipton Till Plain physiographic region of Indiana. The red brick schoolhouse sits on its original rural location, surrounded by picturesque rural farmland, as it was during the period from 1881 through 1916, when it served the educational and communal needs of the Fayette area. The historic Howard Cemetery borders the school property to the east; it includes burials as early as the 1830s. Available documentation indicated that the nominated schoolhouse dates to 1881. It replaced an earlier wooden schoolhouse. The simple architecture of the Howard School reflects the era of popularity of the Italianate style in Indiana, common between 1860 – 1890. It has a hip roof with a wood framed, sheet metal covered flat deck at its top center, deep eaves, and tall, narrow windows and doors with segmental arched openings, all indicative of Italianate architecture in general. Following its closure as a school, the land reverted to the farm it was divided from, and the farm family that owned it utilized it for storage at various times. By 2004, when Howard School Restoration Group decided to restore the school, it had deteriorated from lack of maintenance.

The school stands about 20 feet from the edge of the pavement for CR 750 South and its walls face to the cardinal compass points. The brick schoolhouse measures 26 feet across and 36 feet deep on the exterior. The foundation consists of bricks, laid four thick, with a width of about 17 ½ inches, to about four feet deep. The school's 13 inch (three brick thick) walls rise 13 feet above the foundation to the cedar shake roof. A 16 inch wide wood frieze board at the top of the brick walls, immediately below the roof, surrounds the building. Mortar used for the foundation is white while mortar used to lay the bricks in the wall was tinted red.

The front façade faces north and has a single opening, a doorway, centered on its wall. The doorway has an original limestone threshold block, 7 inches high by 42 inches wide and 14 ½

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Howard School, Boone County, IN

inches deep. The doorway itself is 36 inches wide and 79 inches tall. A segmental arch of triple coursed brick laid in white mortar supports the wall above the opening. The door is wood and has recessed panels. The entrance door header supports a double pane transom measuring 36 inches by 36 inches. A flat wood header piece fills the difference between the curve of the arch and the flat transom.

The openings for the three windows in the east wall and three windows in the west wall of this single story building measure 37 by 96 inches. The window openings are symmetrically placed across each flank of the school. At the beginning of restoration of the school in 2004, the original four-over-four wood double hung sash were present, each unit in varying degrees of extreme deterioration or alteration. The school has no window sash at this point, but, the group plans to install replicated window sash and associated parts in a four-over-four, single pane glazing configuration. Each window has a limestone sill, 5 inches high by 42 inches wide and 7 inches deep. Each opening has a segmental arch header. The arches are self-supporting and consist of three courses of header brick, the bottom two laid on edge, the top one flat. One item found by mortar analysis appears to be a subtle coloristic detail made by the builder. Analysis found that the original mortar for the arches was white, contrasting with the red mortar used on the walls. The entrance arch is detailed the same way. The rear or south elevation of the school building is purely utilitarian. It consists of a brick wall not punctured by doors or windows.

The wooden roof structure is completely carried on the exterior load-bearing walls; there are no interior load-bearing frame partitions. The 8:12 pitched roof has cedar shingles nailed to spaced sheathing on the sloped portion of the roof. The center flat deck is 4 feet by 12 feet and is covered in sheet metal. Although the roof rafters and timbers, sheathing, and about three-fourths of the original wood shingles remained in place at the start of the project, all was beyond salvage due to deterioration. In 2005, the roof was removed, and the most intact surviving members were used as templates to mill new roofing timbers. New sheathing and cedar shingles were installed. One subtle yet important detail was closely copied from original wood members: the decorative rafter extensions. These scroll-sawn 2" x 4" boards, spaced 24 inches apart, form 17 inch deep eaves around the schoolhouse. Each rafter tail has two scallop cuts and a finishing chamfer cut on the undersurface (see photo 13). The rafter tails visually take the place of the usual bracket work seen on an Italianate building. Symmetrically placed brick chimneys measuring 24 inches north-south by 14 inches, with cement caps, emerge from the east and west walls through the

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Howard School, Boone County, IN

roof to a height of about 74 inches. The chimneys are centered above the north and center wall windows.

Interior

The interior was deteriorated from exposure in 2004 when the restoration group started the project. The ceiling was largely bare of plaster, sections of lathe were exposed, several of the wood floor joists had decayed and slipped from their masonry pockets, collapsing to the shallow crawl space. However, doors, moldings, and other simple details survived in sufficient quality and quantity to provide a well-informed replication of missing or decayed elements.

The interior of Howard School consists of a single classroom accessed through the single entry door in the north wall. Students occupied rows of desks facing the south wall, which is lined with blackboards. Restoration plans call for a period teacher's desk to be placed in the center of this south area of the school room, along with period student desks in the requisite rows facing the blackboard. Triangular cloakrooms in the northeast and northwest corners of the room have sides approximately 4 ½ feet along the east and west walls and extend approximately 8 ½ feet to a vertex adjacent to the doorway. The hypotenuse wall rises to the school room ceiling while the interiors of the cloakrooms are approximately 8 ½ feet high. The doorway between the cloakrooms measures 36 inches by 80 inches, centered between 16 inches of wall space east and west, so that the cloakroom doors can be opened without interfering with the front door. Storage space is provided above the cloakroom ceilings, through louvered doors measuring 23 inches by 34 inches. The storage area is accessed using a portable ladder.

Slate blackboards 28 inches above the floor extend across the front of the classroom. They are 48 inches high, surrounded by a chalk rail at the bottom and a 2 ¼ inch supportive frame at the top and sides. The blackboards are further supported at the bottom with wainscot and a 7 ½ inch baseboard. Baseboard trim recovered from a house of the same vintage has been installed around the entire room.

Each window and door opening is trimmed with 5 ½ inch wide plain stained casing boards with plinth and capital blocks. Though the openings are supported by a segmental arch on the exterior, the inside face of the top of the openings have wood lintels.

Original plaster applied directly to the brick walls was in extreme deterioration at the start of the project. The cloakroom configuration was intact, including trim, but the doors were missing.

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Howard School, Boone County, IN

Once the school was secured from further water damage, the group decided to recreate the interior finish with drywall. The classroom walls were furred and filled with $\frac{3}{4}$ rigid insulation board, covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch drywall manufactured to receive the applied $\frac{1}{8}$ inch skim coat plaster. Workers left openings for chimney flues near the ceiling on the east and west wall.

The floor joists and boards were in decay at the start of the project. As many of the floor boards as possible were salvaged from the building. Structural members were removed and replaced. Profiles of exposed elements, such as the rafter tails, were followed, but the new joists and members are heavier to meet current building codes. Flooring consists of original salvaged boards in a 5 foot by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ foot rectangle at the entrance of the school. The rest of the floor boards to be installed are being salvaged from local buildings of about the same vintage as the school.

Outbuildings and Grounds

With exception of outhouses, the Howard School had no outbuildings. Because the restored building will be used as a museum for school children and other groups, the group built a modern restroom building on the site. This non-contributing restroom has an exterior of brick and a wood shingle roof to compliment the school building. However, the restroom is smaller and located away from the historic school so as not to distract from the school.

Based on a 1916 deed transfer of the school and lot to the owner of the surrounding property, the original school lot consisted of one acre of land which measured 453.75 feet east to west across its front by 96.03 feet deep. The school restoration group has acquired a similar parcel, measuring 350 feet across its front by 140 feet deep, consisting of 1.1249 acres. Both property descriptions have the same starting point. In the 19th century, the school lot included a parcel that extended in front of adjacent Howard Cemetery; no burials took place in this small parcel. The township government (owner of the non-active Howard Cemetery) retains ownership of this small parcel, providing a visual continuation of the school lot, as it was historically. The slightly deeper lot allowed for the current school restoration group to build the restroom structure behind the original school building lot.

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Section number 7&8 Page 5 *Howard School, Boone County, IN*

The school lawn has no landscaping. It did not have a playground area with equipment; as Hazel Tharp, a 105 year old alumnus, says "We didn't need playground equipment. We made our own games."¹

Section 8 – Statement of Significance

Howard School is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the development of education in Boone County, Indiana. Howard School was the second school building on the site, and from its completion in 1881 through 1916, this simple brick building served the students and community needs of the small village of Fayette, in Perry Township, Boone County. At the height of the small rural district, one-room school system in Indiana in 1910, Boone County had 123 known schools. Today, Howard School is the only one-room district schoolhouse remaining in Boone County that has not been significantly altered. Howard School meets the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Indiana's Public Common and High Schools."

The Howard School meets the requirements for individual listing under Criterion A because of its role in the history of education in Boone County. The existing brick building and the wooden frame building it replaced in 1881 embody 19th century education in the United States in general and in Indiana specifically. Howard School, as an example of the district school system under the 1852 state school law and later provisions, serves as a reminder of how, where and why Hoosiers educated their young. The building was state-funded, constructed, maintained and monitored by local and state officials. Trustees located the building where it would serve pupils of the most populated area of Perry Township. It is within walking distance of Fayette (formerly known as White Lick Settlement), close enough to serve its intended population yet removed from the distractions of the busy community. Howard School, along with the township's other one-room schools, were closed in December 1916 due to school consolidation. This significant change in the delivery of education to rural areas broadly reflects the transformation of Indiana from

¹ Interview, Hazel Tharp. Ms. Tharp, born 1903, is an alumnus of Howard School. She attended through the beginning of Christmas vacation in 1916, after which she reported to the consolidated Perry Central School for completion of 7th and 8th grades. Ms. Tharp kindly shared her rich knowledge of the school, fellow scholars, and teachers. She provided much information about furnishings, indoor and outdoor recreation, instructional material and practices, personalities and attitudes. She explained "learning was its own reward" and could not understand why modern educational practice has many activities outside the normal course of study. Her assistance is much appreciated.

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Howard School, Boone County, IN

agrarian to urban society. The Howard School building was left vacant and minimally maintained from 1916 to 2004, when citizens decided to rescue the building from certain demise.

The design and configuration of Howard School represents important broad trends in education. Howard School is the type of one-room brick school building once common to Indiana during the district school period (c.1820 – c.1925). Its façade, with centered entrance, faces north while three tall windows on its east and west walls provide abundant natural light for scholars. Howard School is a classic example of the rectangular school room illustrated in the 1876 Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.² However, its builder added contemporary updates on the age old classic one-room gabled box, as shown in the use of deck-topped hip roof, segmental arches set in white mortar, and carved rafter tails.

Howard School is a rarity. It is the only representative one-room schoolhouse extant in Boone County. In 1910, when schoolhouse consolidation was started, the Superintendent of Public Instruction reported approximately 9,300 schoolhouses in Indiana.³ About 123 of these were in Boone County. One hundred of the 123 were brick.⁴ In the mid 1880s, Perry Township had 8 school districts with 8 schools.⁵ In December 1982, the Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory identified only 29 Boone County “school” buildings, three of which were in Perry Township. When each site was visited in June 2004, and July 2008, 12 no longer existed and 5 were large consolidated historic schools rather than one-room former district buildings. Of those remaining, 8 had been converted to residences, all including sizable additions and interior reconfiguration. One remaining school was in use as a barn, and another had been converted to a garage facility for farm machinery. Of the other remaining 2 of the 12, one is now a ruin with no roof, windows, or door and severely deteriorated walls and furnishings. The other was Howard School, making it the only viable one-room school for restoration and interpretation purposes.⁶

² Lisa J. Teeple, “Historical Development of Selected Design Amenities in Central Indiana Rural School Buildings, 1875-1915”, Master’s Thesis, Ball State University, 1993, pp. 85-86.

³ Ibid, p. 120

⁴ Leander Crist, *History of Boone County, Indiana*, Vol. I, Indianapolis: A.W. Bowen & Company, 1914, p. 276.

⁵ Samuel Harden and Spahr (comp.), *Early Life and Times in Boone County Indiana*. Lebanon, IN: Harden and Spahr, 1887. p. 27.

⁶ In 2004 and 2008, the author visited all sites identified as “schools” in the 1982 Boone County Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. In 2008, the author realized that school buildings in addition to those visited in 2004 existed; these had been omitted inadvertently from the 1982 report. These additional sites were visited in 2008 to provide a more complete understanding of the current status of historic school buildings in the county.

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Howard School, Boone County, IN

*Howard School
and the District School System in Perry Township, Boone County, Indiana.*

The history – or perhaps prehistory – of the environs of Howard School is encapsulated with the area's pioneer era namesake, White Lick Settlement. Settlers named the land White Lick for a salt lick at the stream which passed through the area, which became known as White Lick Creek. Ancient Americans, then later, the Miami tribe, followed by Euro-American hunters sought game that was attracted to the salt lick. Artifacts left behind by these various cultures include a stone plow, stone axe, and numerous projectile points.

The Treaty of St. Mary's, 1818, had opened Central Indiana up to Euro-American settlement, even though the Conner family had been trading in the White River Valley since the early years of the 1800s. William Conner had started construction on his impressive brick house facing the White River in 1823, roughly 20 miles due east of present-day Fayette. A trading post flourished in early settlement times near the Conner House. As Perry Township developed, with settlers, roads, and the beginnings of commerce, the White Lick community moved away from the creek and clustered along the nearby roadway, currently known as State Road 267. In the early 1830s, the community named itself Fayette. However, the U.S. Post Office Department recognized the neighborhood as "White Lick Post Town" from 1855 until 1903.⁷

John B. Howard was an original settler to White Lick/Fayette. Howard cleared land for a farm and in March 1837, purchased 80 acres, including the land where the Howard School would be located.⁸ John Howard became a prominent member of the rural community and is the first person found listed as a Trustee for Perry Township. Among other duties, trustees saw to the construction of schools under the district system.

Although White Lick/Fayette had numerous churches and businesses, including blacksmiths, at least two doctors, and merchants, Perry Township overall was and remains a rural farming township. All of its school buildings during the district school period were one room school buildings. The first Perry Township subscription school, which required students to pay for school services, was established in 1836. There were also some other private schools. The public

⁷ David J. Baker, *The Postal History of Indiana, 1800-1890*. Vol II, Louisville, KY: Leonard H. Hartman Philatelic Bibliopole, 1976, p. 741.

⁸ Original document can be viewed at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/> by searching Boone Co., IN under John B. Howard

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Howard School, Boone County, IN

school system began to function after the Indiana General Assembly passed the 1852 school law.⁹

The original wood-frame Howard School stood on the same lot as the current brick school, and is believed to have been constructed in 1855 and replaced with the existing brick building in 1881. Because the Boone County Courthouse burned in 1856, the original documents for the first school are lost. No original or reconstructed records for the original building and property were found. Later, the County School Superintendent directed that old school records covering 40 years following the year 1873, be taken from the superintendent's office and storage room in the Boone County Courthouse and destroyed.¹⁰ The act most likely destroyed records relating to the construction of the existing brick building. Construction dates were determined based on summary information in Examiner's Reports submitted to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, history books, and newspaper articles.

The original wood building was most likely one of three erected in 1855 since it was designated Number 1, and it served the township's most populated area with the greatest number of pupils. John B. Howard, trustee, provided the land for the school site. An 1853 Examiner's Report shows Perry Township had one public schoolhouse in "bad" condition. Examiner Reports show that in 1854 that there were no schools and no teachers. In 1855, three frame schools were erected; one of which was being utilized for classes in 1856. The report for 1857 shows four public schools in "good" condition. By 1856, Perry Township had five public schools, all of which were frame or log. There were no brick buildings. An 1865 map of Boone and Clinton Counties clearly shows Howard School and the adjacent Howard Cemetery in their 1865 and current locations.

The brick Howard School building was most likely constructed in 1881. Examiner reports show that in 1874, Perry Township had 8 school districts with 8 schools. All of the schools were frame through 1878. The 1878 report bears the hand written statement, "More new schools brick on one acre lots," without further explanation. The 1879 report shows no difference in school construction and reports for 1880 through 1890 are incomplete and sketchy on nearly all matters. Several Boone County histories, however, indicate replacement brick school buildings were

⁹ Samuel Harden and Spahr, (comp.), *Early Life and Times in Boone County Indiana*, Lebanon, IN: Harden and Spahr, 1887, p. 27.

¹⁰ Clara Hoover and Nellie Evans, *A Pictorial and Historical Review of Boone and Hamilton County Schools with Emphasis on Marion and Adams Townships*, Boone County, IN: Marion-Adams Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc., 1972, p. 6.

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erected. In 1886 there were 6 frame and 2 brick school buildings.¹¹ Newspaper articles also show brick school construction was taking place. The *Lebanon Pioneer* reported on September 8, 1881, a school being built at Fayette was “rapidly assuming shape.”¹² Again regarding Fayette, the same newspaper on March 22, 1883, reported, “Jap McPharren has taken the contract to do the carpenter work on the new school house, and George Wing the brick work.” Another correspondent reported, “Our Trustee is going to build us a good school house west of town.”¹³

Howard School served the White Lick/Fayette community for educational and gathering purposes until 1916. Gathering purposes referenced in newspaper articles including “singings” and “moot courts” along with family dinners and activities associated with the school. The year 1916 marked the end of the district school system in Perry Township. Hazel Tharp states that she and other children left Howard School for Christmas vacation in December 1916 and returned to the consolidated Perry Central School afterwards.

After its closing in 1916, Howard School received little attention. On February 17, 1917, the school building and lot were sold for \$227.00 to John A. Everett, who owned the surrounding farm land. Descendents of the Everetts still own and farm the surrounding acreage. The building was undisturbed, except for occasional storage of grain or other farm materials. On occasion, it has been surrounded by pastured hogs or cows and more often by fields of grain or corn.¹⁴

Integrity

Howard School retains enough integrity to convey its role as a one-room district school, thanks to recent efforts by Howard School Restoration Group, who now owns the building and site. When the group acquired the building in 2004, it was in deteriorated condition. The brick walls were sound and relatively undamaged, but the wooden roof structure was more seriously affected by lack of maintenance and exposure to the elements. The original or early wood shingles still covered the roof, but portions of roofing had been blown away or fallen through the sheathing, allowing water to deteriorate the interior. The wood roofing members were deteriorated beyond salvaging, but retained their form. Before being discarded, they served as templates for slightly

¹¹ Harden and Spahr, p. 27. Also see Hoover and Evans, p. 8.

¹² *Lebanon Pioneer*, September 8, 1881, No. 24, second page (pages are unnumbered), column on events in Fayette.

¹³ Both references: *Lebanon Pioneer*, March 22, 1883, p. 5, column 3.

¹⁴ Use of Howard School was determined from discussion with family members of surrounding property owners and elderly, long term residents of Boone County. Physical examination of the building's interior and exterior did not show significant other usage except for that of a school prior to the close of 1916.

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larger newly milled beams and rafters so that the new roof structure could duplicate the original form and design and meet modern building codes. On the interior, the wood windows were still in place, but deteriorated beyond repair. These will serve as models for construction of new wood double hung sash windows. The school was built over a crawl space, and water penetration had adsorbed into the floor joists, causing most to rot, crack, or fall out of their joist sockets in the brick wall. Plaster gradually crumbled from the ceiling and walls adding to the floor load and causing moisture to linger in the building. The group was able to salvage some flooring, so that as one enters the school, the visitor steps onto the same flooring students would have 100 years ago. The rest of the flooring and joists were replaced, the flooring was salvaged from a 19th century building. Drywall with plaster skim coat covers the walls. Moldings were also deteriorated, but present throughout the interior, allowing the group to mill proper new moldings. The brick and limestone shell of the building was repaired following mortar analysis to determine proper material content.

The most critical aspects of integrity for a schoolhouse are present in Howard School. It has its integrity of location; it is in the community it was built to serve. It retains its simple, one room plan, with no additions or changes in the fenestration pattern. The interior classroom is undivided and intact as a space. Its site is close to the original acreage, and no overwhelming new development has impinged on the lot. The rural Howard Cemetery which schoolchildren would have seen nearby is still in place and looks much as it did at the turn of the century. With a thoughtful restoration now nearly complete, Howard School clearly recalls the district school era in Boone County. Other one-room schools exist in the county, but, until additions are removed, interior partitions removed, or even more substantial restoration is completed on these, Howard School remains the sole reminder of a significant chapter in the history of education in Boone County.

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**Section 10 – Geographical Data,
Verbal Boundary Description**

The Howard School tract is a rectangular property measuring 350 feet wide by 140 feet deep with shorter ends facing east and west. The north end is bounded by County Road 750 South. The eastern property line abuts the west property line of the Howard Cemetery. The south and west sides are bounded by unoccupied farm land planted in corn or grain without nearby construction.

The precise legal description is:

Part of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section Eleven (11), Township Seventeen (17) North, Range One (1) East, Perry Township, Boone County, Indiana, more fully described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest Corner of Southeast Quarter of said Section Eleven (11); thence along the approximate center line of County Road 750 South and the Quarter Section line, North 89 degrees 55 minutes 04 seconds East 201.50 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence continue along the approximate center line of County Road 750 South and the Quarter Section line, North 89 degrees 55 minutes 04 seconds East 350.00 feet; thence along the West described line of the Howard Cemetery property recorded in Plat Book 5, Page 12, Boone County Recorder's Office, South 00 degrees 12 minutes 05 seconds West 140.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 55 minutes 04 seconds West 350.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 12 minutes 05 seconds East 140.00 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 1.1249 acres, more or less, and subject to any rights-of-way or easements.

Boundary Justification

The boundary approximates the original historic boundary. Due the fact that the school had been conveyed back to the then-owners of the land in 1916, the original boundary had been "erased" and subsumed by surrounding acreage. The land owners donated the school and above described property to the Howard School Restoration Group. The parcel is approximate to the parcel donated for school purposes in the mid-19th century. The above defined parcel now has legal standing with Boone County Recorder's Office and has been assigned an official mailing address by the U.S. Postal Service.

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The boundary does include a non-contributing restroom facility in addition to the historic Howard School. Since the legally recorded parcel includes both resources, SHPO staff determined that dividing the two buildings by creating a boundary that would exclude the restroom would create an artificial and misleading situation.

Photograph Log

Common information for all photos:

Property: Howard School

Location: 4555 East County Road 750 South, Boone County, IN

Photographer: Wayne Terrebonne, Indianapolis, IN

Date: August 30, 2008

Location

of Negatives: CD on file at Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

Photo number – description

1. Front exterior elevation showing entry door, camera facing south
2. West exterior elevation, camera facing east
3. South exterior elevation, camera facing north
4. East exterior elevation, camera facing west
5. View from Howard Cemetery, east of school building, camera facing west
6. Restroom building, camera facing southwest
7. School exterior showing location relative to Howard Cemetery, camera facing southeast
8. Interior wall, camera facing south
9. Interior wall, camera facing northwest
10. Interior wall with open door, camera facing north
11. Interior wall with closed door, camera facing north
12. Interior wall, camera facing northeast
13. Front exterior detail of brick arch and rafter tails, camera facing southwest



Howard School, Boone County, IN

Above, photo 1, below, photo 3



Howard School, Boone County, IN
Above, photo 7, below photo 8



Howard School, Boone County, IN

Photo 11